



# Frequently Asked Questions

## School Uniforms for 2016-17

**Q. Are all students required to wear uniforms? What about pre-K students?**

A. The uniform policy is mandatory for all K-12 students; however, pre-K students are not required to wear uniforms.

**Q. What type of shirt and colors are acceptable?**

A. Shirts must be short- or long-sleeved polo style or oxford style button down. A small trademark logo is acceptable. There are many options available, including dri-fit, blended cotton, 100% cotton, Pique and jersey knit.

All schools may use the district colors of solid white, gray or black and choose two additional colors, which are listed online here:

<http://myvolusiaschools.org/parents-portal/Documents/School%20Shirt%20Colors.pdf>

Shirts must be solid colored, but may be any shade of the color designated by your child's school.

**Q. Can a polo shirt have a pocket?**

A. Yes, as long as it meets the color requirement for your school.

**Q. Can shirts have an embroidered logo?**

A. Yes, a small trademark logo is permissible. Examples include the Nike "swoosh" logo, Izod logo and Lacoste alligator logo. A school's name and logo is also permissible.

**Q. Do shirts have to be tucked in?**

A. No, shirts are not required to be tucked in; however, if belt loops are visible a belt must be worn. Elementary students are not required to wear belts.

**Q. Is a dress acceptable?**

A. Dresses are not permitted in the policy; however, an exception has been made for polo dresses and shirt dresses, which are longer versions of the polo- and Oxford-style shirts. These dresses must meet the color requirement for approved shirts (no denim) and be mid-thigh or longer. No other dresses will be permitted; only skirts, skorts and jumpers.

**Q. Can bottoms be "bedazzled" or have more than one color?**

A. No, the policy states clothing must be a solid color and not have colored trim, stripes or decorations. A small trademark logo is acceptable.

- Q. What type of material and colors are acceptable for shorts, pants, skirts, capris, skorts, and jumpers?**
- A. The policy does not specify fabric for bottoms; however, they must be a solid color in tan, navy blue or black. Blue and black denim is also permissible for all bottoms. The fit must be suitable for build/stature of student and there can be no rips or tears. Shorts, skirts, skorts and jumpers must be mid-thigh or below in length.
- Q. Is denim permissible for shorts, skirts and skorts?**
- A. Yes, blue and black denim material is acceptable for bottom attire.
- Q. Will jeans of any kind, including stonewashed and skinny jeans, be acceptable?**
- A. Yes, however, they must be blue or black, and cannot have any rips or tears.
- Q. Are cargo shorts permitted?**
- A. Yes, but they must be navy blue, black or tan without any rips or tears and worn securely at the waist.
- Q. Are yoga pants, leggings, bicycle shorts or any other tight-fitting clothing acceptable?**
- A. The policy prohibits a variety of clothing which is traditionally worn as undergarments, tights, hosiery, see through garments, exposes the torso or upper thighs or which could lead to disruption of school activities.
- Q. Does clothing have to be purchased from the uniform section of a store?**
- A. Clothes may be purchased from any store or on-line business of your choice.
- Q. Can sweatshirts and hoodies be worn?**
- A. Yes, but if the garment has a hood, it must be removed from the head while in school buildings. There are no color requirements for outerwear, but they must meet the general dress code (nothing offensive, suggestive, disruptive or indecent). Required dress code must be worn underneath.
- Q. Can athletes wear team shirts on game days?**
- A. Yes, with principal approval (see policy Section III. C. 3.)
- Q. Can rings, necklaces and piercings be worn?**
- A. Yes, however, any jewelry that is hazardous or dangerous to the health or safety of the student or others, or might lead to the disruption of school activities is not permitted.
- Q. What kind of shoes are permissible?**
- A. Elementary and middle school students must wear a shoe with a closed toe and closed heel, which includes boots. Athletic shoes must be worn for PE. In addition to closed toe shoes, high school students may wear sandals.

**Q. Can colored socks and shoelaces be worn?**

- A. Yes, there are no restrictions on the color of socks, shoelaces, belts or accessories; however, they must meet the general dress code requirements (cannot be unsafe, offensive, suggestive, disruptive or indecent).

**Q. What is the objective or goal of the uniform policy?**

- A. The policy states: "The Board finds that school uniforms promote the safety and welfare of students and employees. The Board further finds that uniforms promote an environment that enhances learning and safety; encourages expression of student individuality through personality and achievements rather than outward or material appearance; and creates a sense of school pride and community." The full policy can be found here:

[http://www.boarddocs.com/fla/vcsfl/Board.nsf/files/A8KKCT4F1818/\\$file/Policy%202017.PDF](http://www.boarddocs.com/fla/vcsfl/Board.nsf/files/A8KKCT4F1818/$file/Policy%202017.PDF)

**Q. How will the uniform policy be enforced?**

- A. Section III. E. sets forth the section on discipline. It states: For a first offense, a student shall be given a verbal warning without a referral and the parent/guardian shall be contacted. For a second offense, a referral shall be issued and a Level 1 response (from the Code of Student Conduct and Discipline), other than an in-school suspension, shall be issued. For a third offense, in-school suspension, or other Level 1 response, may be issued. A violation of the school uniform requirements shall not result in out-of-school suspension.

**Q. What if a new student transfers into the school district?**

- A. If a student enters the district after the start of the school year, the student will have a grace period of five school days before being required to fully comply with the dress code.

**Q. Who should I notify if I need assistance with purchasing the uniform items?**

- A. Parents/guardians should notify the principal of their child's school to indicate assistance is needed. Schools are in the process of working with businesses, non-profit organizations and community members to put in place support systems and programs for families.

**Q. What opt-out options are available?**

- A. There is not opt-out; the policy is mandatory for all K-12 students. A principal, or designee, may make exceptions on a case-by-case basis for:
- sincerely held religious beliefs of the student; or
  - reasonable accommodations to address a student's disability or medical necessity

Parents/guardians must submit the request in writing and indicate the issue and exemption request.